

May 27, 1954

Dear Ed:

I have your note of the 26th, and wish I could help you on your request. However, as you know, our mutation factory is devoted to stocks for genetic analysis, which means that very few of our mutants are uncomplicated single auxotrophs-- almost all of them are tied up with several other markers in the same strain. About the only really stable single auxotroph I have is the methionineless 58-161 of K-12, which I imagine you, or some of your colleagues at Chicago, must have already. As you would already know, such biochemical enthusiasts as Davis, Adelberg, Gots, Umbarger etc., probably have concentrated their efforts in a more useful direction for you. But I would, after all, suggest that you would be best off collecting your mutants yourself-- you would have a coherent collection, and know a good deal more of the idiosyncrasies and pedigree-obscurities than would otherwise be possible.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg